

12 Dreamy Days

10 December 2024



*... I'm dreaming of a white Christmas ...*

# Christmas ON THE Danube

## Luxury River Cruise plus Prague

with your tour hosts



John & Robyn Cooney

**INFOPACK**

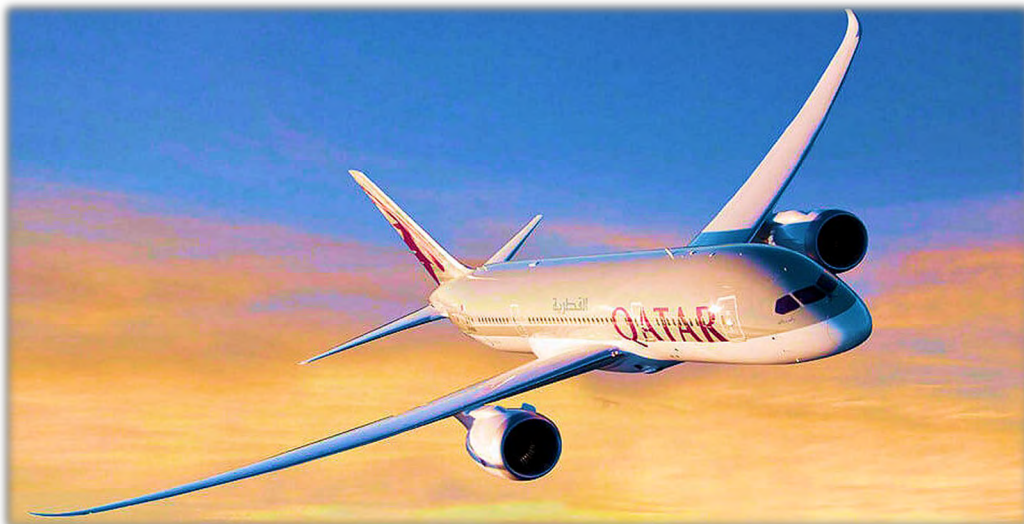


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# The Big Idea ...

“I’m dreaming of a white Christmas ...”

IF YOU’RE ANYTHING LIKE US, YOU’VE KNOWN THIS LOVELY SONG FOREVER ... SUNG ALONG WITH IT, again and again ... and wondered, often, if you would ever enjoy a snowy, festive Christmas for real.

**Well, guess what? It’s about HAPPEN – YEEHAA!**

We can’t guarantee SNOW (that’s up to the weather-gods). But on December 10 this year, we’re heading off – *up-up-and-away* – to realise our WINTER-WONDERLAND dream! **AND YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!**

Imagine swapping your usual Kiwi ‘silly season’ for an unforgettable Winter Yuletide on the other side of the world? Imagine being welcomed aboard a luxurious top-of-the-line river-cruise ... unpacking in your modern, spacious suite (cabin) ... and gazing at magical scenery right outside your balcony window? Imagine being pampered in the plush lounge, at the bar and restaurant, or up on the Sky Deck, while your ship glides through some of Europe’s loveliest, most-famous regions ... with all meals, entertainment and sightseeing paid for in advance ... and Christmas lights, markets, festivities and celebrations erupting everywhere, each time you go ashore?

‘CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE’: that’s what we’re gonna enjoy – in Prague (Czech Republic) ... then through Germany and Austria as we cruise the Blue Danube. So if YOU are in the mood for some hassle-free travel, great company, and loads of Mad Midlife laughter – **why don’t you come, too?**

## In our humble opinion ...

TRAVEL IS WONDERFUL – AND **GROUP TRAVEL** IS DOUBLY-WONDERFUL! THAT’S BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE, EVER since **Midlife Madness Tours** first began. When you go adventuring with one of our groups, you end up doing stuff, going places, meeting people, grabbing opportunities, and trying things that you mightn’t have the courage to try if you were travelling on your own. In short, there’s no end to the fun that happens and memories that are made when likeminded, young-at-heart Kiwis venture out together.

We’re old hands when it comes to travel. We know how to find our way around airports and cruise ships. And we know how to make good tours GREAT! So come and share some **MIDLIFE MADNESS** with us!

**Friendly warning: You need to act promptly! This will be a small, select group – and we expect places to fill up fast. Flights and cruises are pretty much SOLD-OUT over the Christmas period. If you’re keen to come, you must book a.s.a.p. – by MAY 31 at the latest! We can’t hold our allocated seats and cabins beyond that date.**

Here’s hoping you’ll decide to join us on this MAD MIDLIFE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL !

- **JOHN & ROBYN COONEY** (*Tour Hosts*)
- **JACQUI WILLIAMSON** (*Bookings Manager*)



JOHN



ROBYN



JACQUI





# Our Itinerary ...

## Let us explain:

THIS IS ALMOST *TOO* EXCITING! THE FUN STARTS ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024, WHEN WE FLY FIRST TO exotic **Doha, Qatar** for a break between flights. We then get airborne again, flying this time to **Prague**, the beautiful capital of the Czech Republic, where we'll be 'wowed' by our first glittering Christmas Market.

Next, we head to **Nuremberg**, Germany, where the stylish, elegant *Avalon Passion* – our 5-star floating hotel – waits to welcome us aboard. ***If you've never been on a luxury river-cruise before you're in for a TREAT!***

Up ahead is the **wintry Christmas** you've been dreaming of! Day after day, as we follow our eye-popping route through the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria, past sparkling landscapes, festive villages, lit-up castles and cathedrals ... right into the heart of romantic places like Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Linz, Melk and Vienna.

They know how to 'do Christmas' in this part of the world – and 'celebration' is the name of the game! We'll see lots, eat lots, laugh lots, make new friends, take far too many photos, and generally have the time of our lives!

Between now and departure, this draft daily programme is **still subject to change**. Closer to Day 1, we'll send you our **Final Itinerary** – with flight times, port arrivals/departures, and sightseeing details. But here, to whet your appetite, is the **Interim Itinerary** for our 2024 Mad Midlife '**CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE**'.

Enjoy ...





## 'Christmas on the Danube' – Interim Itinerary

**DECEMBER 2024**

Tues 10

### let the fun begin!

We depart Auckland, NZ, late afternoon on our big **Qatar Airlines** jet – arriving just after midnight at Hamad International Airport in **Doha**, capital of **Qatar**, where we have an 8hr break, a nice, soft bed, and the chance for some shut-eye between flights: ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ.

Doha is a thriving city of some two million that offers an intriguing mix of modern wonders and ancient traditions. And the sparkling skyline which we might glimpse from the air is testimony to the country's vast oil wealth. But, sorry, we don't have time for sightseeing: that'll have to wait for our next trip!

Wed 11

### "Dobrý-den!" – hello Prague

Refreshed and firing on all cylinders, we head for the gate to catch our morning flight to **Prague**: the Czech Republic's Golden City. Prague sits astride the Vltava River with domes, turrets, spires, pedestrian-only streets lined with a riot of grand palaces and beautiful baroque churches. Once we've checked in to our hotel and cleaned our teeth, we're free to wrap up warmly and go for a stroll.

*(December temps in Prague are mostly near zero or below – and they often get snow. Fingers crossed!)*

Whatever you do, don't overlook the **Christmas Markets** – rows of brightly decorated wooden huts that sell ornaments, wooden toys, and Czech handicrafts. And grab the chance to sample some delicious plum dumplings and a steaming cup of *svarene vino* (hot mulled wine).

Thurs 12

### Christmas in the Czech Republic

(B,D)

1000-year-old **Prague** boasts the most romantic setting of any European city, and (miraculously) it remained undamaged during both World Wars. So come on Kiwis: get up, get dressed, make your bed and put on your winter woollies, because today we've gotta see as much as we can.

Our sightseeing starts with a guided wander through the medieval Old Town, which takes in Hradcany Castle Grounds ... St Vitus Cathedral ... the Astronomical Clock (the oldest working clock in the world, installed in 1410) ... and the famous, much-photographed Charles Bridge.

We're free this afternoon to do more sightseeing, go shop-shop-shopping, or browse again in Prague's exquisite Christmas Markets. Just don't get lost or lose track of time, because tonight we're off to a **Czech Dinner & Folklore Show** featuring the country's traditional food and music, song and dance!

Fri 13

### to Nuremberg (Germany) & the Avalon Passion

(B,D)

*Is it happening yet? Is your perfect Christmas wish coming true?* Well, enjoy one last look around Prague, and warm your heart-&-soul with some hot local libation, before we bid goodbye – "Sbohem!"





– to the Czech Republic.

Today we travel by horse-&-buggy (oh, sorry, airconditioned coach) to **Nuremberg**, Germany, with two grand highlights on our minds:

1. The **Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt** – the true granddaddy of Christmas Markets, one of the world's most famous. (A likely place to stock-up on souvenirs – so bring your pocket-money.)
2. The **Avalon Passion** – our chosen 5-star vessel for this Mad Midlife '**CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE**' river cruise, with each cabin a spacious Panorama Suite featuring wall-to-wall, open-air balconies!

Have fun unpacking and finding your way around the decks ... YEEHAA!

Sat 14

### **Nuremberg's Christkindlesmarkt**

(B,L,D)

We hope you slept well ... woke refreshed ... and enjoyed your hearty onboard breakfast? This morning we head ashore to discover what this historic German city has to offer: the storybook 900-year-old ramparts with watchtowers and gates ... the legendary Kaiserburg Castle, rated one of Europe's most formidable medieval forts ... the Schöner Brunnen (gilded fountain) in the Hauptmarkt ... the Lorenzkirche (medieval cathedral, badly smashed-up in WW2, later restored).

We also have time to roam **Nuremberg's** Old Town, illuminated with festive lights and decorations ... and the Christmas Market, with its countless spruce stalls offering favourite Bavarian fare: such as *lebkuchen* (spiced gingerbread), *glühwein* (hot mulled wine), and long, skinny *bratwurst* sausages.

This afternoon, if you wish, you can join an optional excursion to the Nazi Party rally-grounds in the southeast of the city (where Hitler and his National Socialist regime displayed their might) ... visit the documentation centre ... and view the '*Fascination & Terror*' exhibition.

There's live entertainment this evening as we sail to Regensburg, so put on your dancing shoes!

Sun 15

### **magical Regensburg (Bavaria)**

(B,L,D)

Brace yourselves, Kiwis: you're gonna fall in love with this picturesque city, here in the land of mouth-watering pretzels and hand-crafted beer. Split in two by the Danube River, **Regensburg** has the Old Town on one side and its contemporary sister just across from it – and is home to more than 1000 miraculously-preserved monuments, some dating back to the Roman Empire. During the Middle Ages, the Old Town was a booming merchant city with luxury goods coming in and going out as far as China and India.

Hardly surprising this UNESCO World Heritage site is regarded as "living history"!

We join a guided stroll along cobblestone streets, past historical buildings galore ... the Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus) ... Porta Pretoria (an arched stone gateway, built in 179 AD as the entrance to the Castra Regina fortress) ... and more. In the city's Christmas Market, you oughta track down some gingerbread and candied almonds. Go on – you won't regret it!





Mon 16

## Passau: City of Three Rivers – and Salzburg

(B,L,D)

We wake up this morning in **Passau**, having cruised this way last night. Since Roman times, Passau (where the rivers Inn and Ilz join the Danube) has held a magnetic attraction for traders and travellers alike. Known today for its Veste Oberhaus (a 13<sup>th</sup>-century hilltop fortress) ... its baroque architecture (the distinctive onion-domed towers) ... and the world's largest organ (with 17,974 pipes) – it was once more famous for its quality swords and bladed weapons. (*Ouch!*)

If you haven't already filled your suitcase with gifts for the family, **Passau's Christmas Market** (set against the imposing backdrop of St Stephen's Cathedral in the Old Town) offers visitors a broad range of high-quality Bavarian-favourite. So, now's your chance: you might even get a cheap sword!

But today's top highlight is a coach-ride away in nearby **Salzburg** – the birthplace of **Mozart**. And, if you turn up your hearing-aids, you might hear a renowned composition by Wolfgang Amadeus himself.

However, we've gotta be honest: the tunes you're more likely to recognise come from a beloved 1964 Hollywood extravaganza. And if Salzburg's Mirabell Gardens, Pferdeschwemme fountain, Nonnberg Convent and Residenzplatz all look kind-of familiar, that's hardly surprising – because these hills are still alive with **The Sound of Music**.

Yes folks, this is where Maria (Julie Andrews) and the von Trapp children sang their little hearts out. So clear your throat and sing your little heart out, too!

Are you ready? On the count of three: "*Doe, a deer, a female deer ...*"

This evening, we cross the border and dock briefly in one of the most important Austrian cities: **Linz** – founded by the Romans, then a big-time trade centre, then an even bigger-time home for the **Hapsburg Emperor Friedrich III**.

Oh, wait! Don't leave Linz, whatever you do, until you've found a local bakery and tasted the region's famous *linzer torte* (cake). Yum ...

Tues 17

## Melk in Austria's Wachau Valley

(B,L,D)

*Guten morgan*, friends! You probably don't realise this but, at some point during the night, the **Avalon Passion** sailed into the achingly beautiful Wachau Valley, smack in the middle of Austria's world-famous wine-growing region.

After docking alongside the small town of **Melk**, we get to visit their truly magnificent **Benedictine Abbey**. Built in the early 1700s on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube, what began life as a royal palace was eventually gifted to Benedictine monks – who turned the estate into a fortified monastery. Today, despite being open to tourists, it continues to serve its religious purpose and is home to hundreds of pupils training to become monks.

You can't miss the Abbey's library, boasting 16,000 volumes. And the spiral staircase leading to a further 100,000 volumes, some of which are extremely valuable. But the church itself, with its stunning





frescoes and altar-pieces and its view out over the Wachau Valley, will take your breath away!  
Tonight, as we sail away to our final port, Vienna, you can enjoy an Austrian cookie-tasting session. Mmm!

Wed 18

### spellbinding Vienna

(B,L,D) Rise and shine, Kiwis! Today's a BIGGIE and a BEAUT! We start with a sightseeing tour of Wien (**Vienna**) that takes us along the majestic Ringstrasse ... through the Schwarzenbergplatz (Vienna's vast town square) ... past Charles Church (Karlskirche, built in 1739 by virtue of a vow made by Emperor Charles VI during a plague) ... the iconic Opera House ... the Imperial Palace (winter residence of the Imperial Family) ... and the awe-inspiring St Stephens Cathedral with its massive South Tower. Oh, by the way: go find a bakery on Kärtnerstrasse and sample Vienna's famous pastries!

Then, in the afternoon, we're up and off to the Schönbrunn Castle, one of Vienna's most gorgeous buildings – a World Cultural Heritage that was centre of courtly and political life under the reign of Empress Maria Theresia (died 1780).

But wait: we can't leave Vienna without doing one more thing. After dinner on board tonight, we head back into town for a spellbinding evening of classical works and waltzes by Mozart and Johann Strauss, performed brilliantly by Salon Orchestra Alt-Wien musicians in one of Europe's prettiest venues.

Thurs 19

### all good things come to an end ...

(B) Our Mad Midlife adventure – '**CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE**' – is, sadly, over. Following a final onboard breakfast, we need to pack our bags, saddle our horses, and say "*Auf Wiedersehen*" (goodbye) to the lovely *Avalon Passion* and its passionate crew!

These past two weeks have been a BLAST – don't you agree? We no longer have to DREAM of a white Christmas – we've DONE it! We've got photos and memories, stories and legends to tell folks back home ... and we've made a bunch of new friends in the process!

However, "*The time has come*" (the walrus said) "*to say goodbye ...*"

Come mid-afternoon, we'll transfer to Vienna's International Airport for our *looooooong* flights home – arriving back in Godzone ready to celebrate Christmas Day Kiwi-style with family and friends!







# Avalon Cruise

## Premium-class luxury!

THE **AVALON WATERWAYS FLEET** RANKS AMONGST THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SHIPS CRUISING EUROPE'S GREAT Rivers. These stylish, elegant vessels have every mod-con you can imagine – boasting premium class luxury with all the comforts you'd expect in a floating hotel ... plus incomparable views of the 'floating-by' scenery. In short, you'll be pampered to bits from the moment you step on board!

Unlike a coach tour, we won't waste hours each day on the road. Instead, we'll sail (mostly during the night) through the very heart of our destination. And with 'walk-right-off' access to these stunning European locations, we're promised a totally memorable immerse-yourself experience.

**Avalon Waterways** offer a delightfully intimate cruise setting. The spacious cabins feature premium beds with Egyptian-cotton linens ... under-bed luggage storage ... writing desk & chair ... flat-screen TV ... in-room safe ... large private ensuite with shower & L'Occitane bath products ... bathrobes, slippers & hairdryer ... and ample closet space. **Panorama Suites on the Royal Deck** (which we've been allocated for our group) feature the same as above, except large floor-to-ceiling windows replace the picture windows of the lower decks, transforming the living space into a unique **open-air balcony**, ensuring that you wake each morning to enchanting scenery and a fresh breeze.



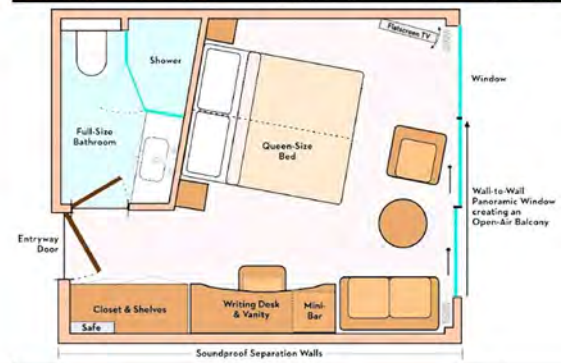


**Gourmet pleasures** of the highest standard (including healthy choices, vegetarian options, and allergy-free selections) are served at every meal in the spacious open-seating dining room ... full buffet **breakfast** with made-to-order egg station ... **lunch** buffet with carving and pasta stations (plus Sky Bistro lunch option on the Sky Deck) ... four-course **dinners** with choice of appetizers, soups, salads, entrées and desserts or cheese ... plus complimentary wine, beer, or soft drinks with lunch and dinner

## Here's a sample of what else awaits us on board:

- self-serve beverage station with complimentary tea, coffee,
- afternoon tea featuring tea, coffee & sweet treats
- happy hour every evening including featured drink specials
- friendly, English-speaking crew and Cruise Director
- sightseeing with certified local guides
- headsets for guided shore excursions
- Sky Deck whirlpool & games area
- complimentary WiFi
- English-speaking TV channels with over 100 movie options
- hair salon ... well-stocked library ... fitness centre
- fresh fruit available throughout the day

As you can see, luxury river cruising is a tough way to travel. But someone has to do it – right? – and it might as well be **YOU**.





# The Nitty Gritty

## Flights, cabins, options & restrictions ...

THIS SPECIAL TOUR HAS BEEN A LOGISTICAL CHALLENGE – THANKS TO CHRISTMAS DEMANDS, CHOCK-A-BLOCK flights and sold-out cruises. But our dream of a white Christmas is actually happening! **All we need now is YOU!** But, first, we must explain: unlike other Midlife Madness adventures (where you have plenty of options to choose from), with ‘Christmas on the Danube’ there’s little flexibility:

- ◆ **FLIGHTS:** The discounted **group airfares** that Jacqui (our Bookings Manager) has secured with Qatar Airways are **economy-class only** – and **we all fly together**. No wriggle-room, no upgrades, no changes, and no extra travel before or after the tour. (The reason? Airlines don’t need all those fancy extras in December – they’re filling their planes easily!) So that’s it, you lucky, lucky people: **you LEAVE with us, and COME HOME with us!**
- ◆ **RIVER CRUISE:** Same thing, basically. The cabins we’ve been allocated for our group are all the same ... all **Panorama Suites** (see p9) ... all spacious, beautifully-appointed, with balconies ... and all on the (upper) **Royal Deck**. Frankly, we’re extremely lucky to get them – and there’s little chance we can get more!
- ◆ **HOTELS & CABINS:** The options are **share-twin or double** (two to a room), with a limited number of **singles** (one to a room). If you’re travelling on your own and want someone to share with, we’ll do our best to find you a suitable companion – someone nice, friendly, similar age, etc.
- ◆ **PLEASE BOOK EARLY – BEFORE MAY 31 – NOW, IF YOU DON’T WANT TO MISS OUT:** This will be a small group, places allocated first-come-first-served. We can’t hold airline-seats and cruise-cabins **beyond May 31!** So, **ACT NOW!** Give us a ‘heads-up’ a.s.a.p. – phone [0800 323](tel:0800323333) or email [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours).

Sorry if this sounds a bit bossy or restrictive, but the limitations are well worth it. This ‘**CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE**’ is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity ... and a treat you will never forget!

## All-up price: from \$15,985 pp share twin

THIS ALL-UP PRICE INCLUDES AIRFARES, CRUISE, SIGHTSEEING AND PRETTY-MUCH EVERYTHING ELSE (SEE next page). It is subject to unexpected cost increases and/or fluctuations in the currency exchange-rates.

- ◆ As explained above, this price is costed on **economy-class flights** and **share-twin or double accommodation** (two people to each cabin or hotel room).
- ◆ **Single accommodation** (one person to a cabin or hotel room) is **limited** on this tour: ask about availability and the extra cost (single supplement).

## Deposit required: \$4,000 per person when booking

Please pay online – by **credit card** or **direct credit** (see p16). Banks are no longer accepting cheques. Ask us for a secure link and our bank account details: [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours) or 0800 323 333.

- ◆ **Final payment is due August 22, 2024** (your final invoice will be sent out in July).





## What's included in the price?

LIKE WE SAY, PRETTY MUCH **EVERYTHING**. WHY? WELL, EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US THAT KIWI travellers prefer to know up-front – *and pay in advance* – rather than having to find endless extra dollars during the tour – for things like excursions and highlights and dinners they weren't prepared for.

So here's what's covered:

- ✓ AIRFARES: economy class from Auckland to Prague (via Doha) ... and Vienna to Auckland (via Doha)
- ✓ TAXES: airport and airline taxes & levies
- ✓ TRANSFERS: between airports, hotels & ports
- ✓ HOTELS: as detailed in our Final Itinerary
- ✓ DANUBE CRUISE: 'Avalon Passion'
- ✓ MEALS: all breakfasts and most dinners as detailed in our Final Itinerary
- ✓ SIGHTSEEING: all shore excursions and entrance fees as detailed in our Final Itinerary
- ✓ TIPPING: all group gratuities
- ✓ TOUR HOSTS: all the help that we (John & Robyn Cooney) can offer

## Qatar Airways airpoints

QATAR AIRWAYS IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE ONEWORLD ALLIANCE, AND '**THE PRIVILEGE CLUB**' IS QATAR'S rewards programme. You can earn 'miles' on these flights, so join free at <https://www.qatarairways.com/>. And don't forget to send Jacqui your membership number.

## Meanwhile, we'll keep you posted

BETWEEN NOW AND DEPARTURE, WE'LL UPDATE YOU WITH WINTER TRAVEL-TIPS, CRUISE INFO, luggage, clothing, health & safety, money-money-money, emergency contacts, etc. No, we won't do your packing for you, but we will do all we can to help you gain the MAX from this fabulous European experience!

***So what are you waiting for?***

***Don't miss out!***

***Decide now that you're going to join us!***





# Feedback ...

## What people have said about our previous tours:

THE FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR EACH MAD MIDLIFE TOUR IS: WE'VE GOTTA HAVE A GOOD TIME! GREAT itineraries, hassle-free travel, and fun: that's our promise. And the **FEEDBACK** we get speaks for itself ...

- ✓ *"The trip was **absolutely unreal** – loved every bit of it – a new adventure each day!"*  
([Sherrol](#))
- ✓ *"You put a great deal of effort into organising this trip – thank you. We visited places we'd only dreamed about. The whole thing was **the best 'away' experience** we've ever had!"*  
([Ray](#))
- ✓ *"We have wonderful memories of another **amazing adventure** with you lovely people!"*  
([Nola & John](#))
- ✓ *"It was a **totally magical experience!** Thanks to you both for taking such good care of us."*  
([Soon Ja](#))
- ✓ *"A wonderful trip! I was hesitant at first about going on a group tour, but I'm **so pleased I joined you**. It all went so smoothly, without a hitch. I'd recommend your tours to anyone!"*  
([June](#))
- ✓ *"Thanks for being such kind and thoughtful friends, as well as **delightful tour hosts**."*  
([Patty](#))
- ✓ *"An amazing trip! Thanks for **all the fun and laughter** you instigated along the way. You're amazing!"*  
([Shirley](#))
- ✓ *"The cruise was **out-of-this-world** – and the way everything came together on the ship and on shore was remarkable. Many thanks."*  
([Marie & Warwick](#))
- ✓ *"Particular thanks for your professionalism, **your meticulous attention to detail** (both prior to the trip and during it), and your many kindnesses. We will be happy to join you on another occasion."*  
([Les & Marion](#))
- ✓ *"I **couldn't fault a thing**. And I've already booked on next year's cruise!"*  
([Brenda](#))
- ✓ *"I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of our tour. Have bored everyone to tears since, **raving on and on** about the things we did and the wonderful friends we made."*  
([Diane](#))
- ✓ *"Thanks for all the advance planning you did to create this amazing tour. **You take the stress out of travel**. We can certainly understand why people choose to go with you again and again."*  
([Maureen & Kevin](#))
- ✓ *"My absolute **best travel experience ever!**"*  
([Anne](#))



# Who's Who?

## Tour Promoters & Hosts: John & Robyn Cooney

TRAVEL HAS FEATURED HIGH ON OUR AGENDA FOR SEVERAL DECADES NOW. IN BETWEEN KIDS/GRANDKIDS and publishing the family magazine **Grapevine**, we've been privileged to visit many stunning destinations: Europe, the UK, Singapore, Vanuatu, the USA, Israel, Egypt, Africa (Kenya & Tanzania), China, Laos-Cambodia-Vietnam, the Mediterranean, the Baltic, India, China, South America, Canada, Alaska. And, early in the piece, we launched **Midlife Madness Tours**.

Our Dec 2024 '**CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE**' CRUISE can't come quick enough – a marvellous itinerary, great company, lots of laughs, and memories that will last forever. Here's hoping YOU will join us!



- ◆ John & Robyn Cooney  
Midlife Madness Tours  
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- ◆ Email: [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours)      ◆ Website: [www.midlifemadness.tours](http://www.midlifemadness.tours)

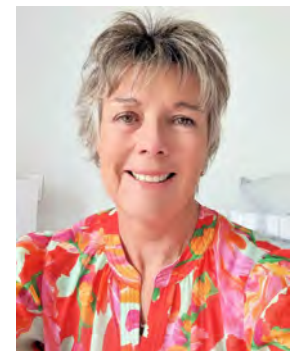
## Bookings Manager: Jacqui Williamson at The Travel Brokers Ltd (a division of Hello World)

**JACQUI'S A SPECIALIST WITH THE TRAVEL BROKERS LTD: A FULLY TAAZ-BONDED DIVISION OF HELLO WORLD.** A passionate traveller herself, Jacqui's been helping adventure-lovers realise their dreams for more than 25 years. And her motto? "*Life is short! You've got to grab the moment!*"

She brings to **Midlife Madness Tours** her extensive experience in travel, plus a desire to help the Cooneys host fantastic fun-filled, hassle-free tours!

Jacqui looks forward to talking with you about your booking arrangements ... deposits and final payments ... flight arrangements ... travel insurance ... plus any other touring queries or requirements.

- ◆ Jacqui Williamson
- ◆ Phone: 0800 323 333 (tollfree)
- ◆ Email: [jacqui@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:jacqui@midlifemadness.tours)      ◆ Website: [www.midlifemadness.tours](http://www.midlifemadness.tours)





# About You?

## Age, health & mobility

THIS MAD MIDLIFE TOUR IS DESIGNED FOR FUN-LOVING, YOUNG-AT-HEART KIWIS IN **MIDLIFE** – GIVE OR take a decade or two! Our groups always include a good mix of singles and couples, plus a good mix of ages! Let's face it, your date-of-birth isn't as relevant as your health, mobility, outlook-on-life and sense-of-humour.

This tour will involve some lengthy flights, busy days and plenty of leisurely walking. So long as you're healthy, mobile, able to keep up and keen to join in the fun, **you'll fit in just fine!**

## Medical certificate please

IF YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH OR MOBILITY PROBLEMS – OR ARE 75 YEARS OLD (OR OLDER) we ask you to complete this Midlife Madness **Medical Certificate** – which requires input from your regular doctor.

If we believe this tour is unsuitable for you:

- we may **decline your booking**, with regret ... *or*
- we may **request that you travel with someone else** (if you aren't already) – a spouse/partner/ family member/friend) who can accompany you and provide any special assistance you may need.



## Travel insurance – compulsory

TRAVELLING WITH NO INSURANCE (OR INADEQUATE INSURANCE) IS HIGHLY RISKY – AND, SHOULD AN accident or illness occur while you're overseas, it can prove very costly! Which is why **we require everyone joining this tour to have adequate insurance** (with provision for emergency evacuation). Regrettably, failure to attend to this could result in your booking being declined.

**#1.** Jacqui (our Bookings Manager) can offer a **TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY** – with a **discount** (up-to-10%) you might like to take advantage of. Email [jacqui@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:jacqui@midlifemadness.tours) and ask for a quote. Please also tick the 'Travel Insurance' box on your Booking Form (down the right-hand side of the form).

- #2.** Alternatively, **you can arrange YOUR OWN INSURANCE**, if you wish. However, to avoid an unpleasant shock:
- please check your policy** carefully to be sure what you're covered for: e.g. **you should be covered** for 'emergency evacuation' (in the event of serious injury or illness) and 'civil commotion' (in the event of riots).
  - please send us a copy of your policy document**, showing the policy number, emergency contact numbers, etc – so we have this information on hand, in the unlikely event of an accident or illness.

Thanks for your co-operation ...





# The Fine Print ...

## How to book:

1. Read the Booking Conditions, below, and complete the Booking Form – one form per person, carefully filling in your Passport details. (**Important: All tour members need a current Passport, valid for at least 6 months after return to NZ. And holders of other than NZ Passports need a Returning Resident's Visa.**)
2. Scan your completed Booking Form, and scan the main page in your Passport – then email both scanned documents to [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours).
4. When paying your Deposit online, please use direct credit or a credit card (banks no longer accept cheques). Ask for our secure link and bank account: [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours) – or **0800 323 333**.
5. If you want the Travel Insurance that Jacqui can arrange, please tick that box on your Booking Form.
6. Jacqui (our Bookings Manager) will confirm your booking in writing and send a receipt for your deposit.
7. If the tour's already full, you'll be advised (with regret) and your deposit will be returned immediately.

## Booking conditions:

**PRICE: CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE – DEC 2024**  
 – \$15,985 per person – double or share-twin  
 – (limited singles available – ask for a price)

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

1. Airfares: economy class Auckland to Prague (via Doha) ... and Vienna to Auckland (via Doha)
2. Taxes: airport and airline taxes & levies
3. Transfers: between airports, hotels & ports
4. Hotels: as detailed in Final Itinerary
5. Danube Cruise: Avalon Passion
6. Meals: all breakfasts and most dinners as detailed in Final Itinerary
7. Sightseeing: all excursions and entrance fees as detailed in Final Itinerary
8. Tipping: all group gratuities
9. Tour Hosts: services of John and Robyn Cooney

### PAYMENTS

DEPOSIT: – \$4,000 pp, due when booking  
FINAL PAYMENT DUE – August 22, 2024

1. Your booking will be confirmed on receipt of deposit and booking form.
2. After August 22, 2024, payment in full is required at time of booking.
3. Travel documents and instructions for joining your tour will be sent to you prior to departure day (providing full payment has been received).

### MINIMUM NUMBERS

Tour costs are based on 20 tour members. Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers reserve the right to cancel the tour if this number is not reached. If this happens, you may claim cancellation charges against your loss-of-deposit travel insurance. This action will relieve Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers of any further liability to the client. All indications are that this tour will be well supported.

### CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

#### TOUR ARRANGEMENTS:

If you find it necessary to cancel your Midlife Madness tour, monies will be

refunded less a cancellation fee per person as follows:

- If you cancel up to 180 days prior to departure – deposit less a cancellation fee of \$1,250.
- If you cancel between 180 to 100 days prior to departure – deposit less a cancellation fee of 50% (or as advised, due to commitments made to suppliers).
- If you cancel after full payment has been made (generally 90 to 100 days prior to departure) – no refund, sorry.

NOTE: We commit to offering you as much of a refund as possible whenever possible.

1. We will retain an additional \$500 (min), plus any cancellation fees levied by suppliers, where your cancellation affects the cost to the group, or affects the size or viability of the group.
2. All refunds at any time are subject to supplier charges if and where we have paid monies on your behalf to a supplier.
3. A cancellation involving a twin-share arrangement (where we are cancelling your place but not cancelling the hotel) will require a recalculation of costs incurred.
4. Cancellation conditions may vary from supplier to supplier – and may sometimes differ from our standard cancellation options.

NO REFUND IS AVAILABLE for cancellation after commencement of tour arrangements or on any services not used. Should you encounter any problems on your tour it is always better to try and solve it on the spot with the operator of the tour. If this is not possible and you wish to lodge a complaint, this should be done in writing within 30 days of completing your tour.

SIGHTSEEING: No refunds will be made to passengers who elect not to partake in activities or sightseeing included in the itinerary.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Cancellation fees will apply as required by Airline Tariff Regulations and will vary dependent upon the type of airfare utilised.

NAME CHANGES may require the cancellation and rebooking of your airfare

*Midlife Madness Tours is a client of Jacqui Williamson and The Travel Brokers (member of Hello World).*



portion at your expense. Amendment fees and fare differences may be incurred.

#### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is compulsory for everyone on this tour. You agree that we will have no liability for any loss or damage of any kind (direct, indirect, consequential or otherwise) you may suffer resulting from cancellation, loss of luggage and personal property, medical expenses, and the effects of accident, however it is caused. It is your responsibility to insure yourself fully with a comprehensive policy that includes provision for emergency evacuation.

#### **HEALTH AND FITNESS**

**PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS:** We strongly recommend a visit to your doctor and dentist before your tour. You must ask your doctor about current inoculation requirements. Full details of pre-existing medical conditions must be forwarded to Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers when you book. Failure to do so is a breach of these conditions and may result in your being excluded from the tour and all funds paid being forfeited. Clients 75 years old (or more) and/or with pre-existing medical conditions require a medical certificate from their doctor clearing them for this tour. Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers reserve the right, at their discretion, to cancel your booking and refund the money paid by you. During your tour you are under the control of your Tour Hosts, who have the authority to determine your suitability to continue with the tour.

**ILLNESS OR ABSENTEEISM:** In case you have to withdraw from the tour after it has begun for reasons such as illness, be sure to obtain a medical certificate to support any insurance claim. Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers regret that they cannot make refunds for absences from the tour, including but not limited to missed meals or sightseeing. If a promotional airfare is broken or extended for any reason, an additional fare may be payable.

**PHYSICAL DISABILITIES:** If you need any form of assistance or are physically disabled, you must be accompanied by a passenger who will take full responsibility for any assistance needed during the tour and in the event of an emergency. You must notify us in writing prior to booking of any disabilities, medical apparatus, or special medical assistance you may need. We reserve the right to decline anyone for any reason who, in the opinion of Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers, is unsuitable for travel or whose condition may affect the health, safety or enjoyment of other passengers.

#### **TOUR EXCLUSIONS**

Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers and your Tour Hosts reserve the right to withdraw tour membership from anyone whose behaviour is deemed likely to affect the smooth operation of the tour or adversely affect the enjoyment or safety of other passengers, and Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers shall be under no liability to any such person.

#### **INFORMATION PACK VALIDITY**

Considerable care has been taken to compile this information pack but circumstances may necessitate changes in itinerary and costs, in which case you will be informed as soon as possible. Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers cannot be held responsible for any changes which may occur and reserve the right to increase the price of any travel arrangements up to the date of departure. This includes adjustment for devaluation, fuel surcharges, airfare increases as well as international exchange rate fluctuations. Qatar Airways does not, by virtue of their endorsement to this information pack, represent themselves as either contracting with any purchaser of a tour from Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers or as having any other legal relationship with such purchaser.

#### **CHECKING YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

It is important that you check all documentation sent to you in relation to your proposed travel and accommodation to ensure that it fully meets with your requirements and that there have been no misunderstandings.

#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

##### **1. THE GUARANTEES UNDER THE CONSUMER GUARANTEES ACT 1993 WILL APPLY TO SERVICES SUPPLIED BY US EXCEPT WHERE THEY ARE ACQUIRED, OR ARE HELD OUT AS BEING ACQUIRED, FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES.**

1.1 The services that Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers supply consist of arranging and coordinating travel, entertainment and accommodation facilities and services, and making bookings, issuing tickets and vouchers to be redeemed by Suppliers. We will not be liable for any loss or damage of any kind (direct, indirect, consequential or otherwise) which you may suffer resulting from selection of those suppliers, or your use

or consumption of, or inability to use or consume those facilities or services. 1.2 We undertake to perform these services with reasonable care and skill. We will not be liable for any loss or damage which results from the act, default or omission of any person other than ourselves, our employees or agents, or any cause independent of human control. This includes (but is not limited to), loss or damage which arises directly or indirectly from any act of God, weather disruptions, dangers incidental to the sea, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Governments or other authorities de jure or de facto, wars whether declared, or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, deaths, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines or medical or customs regulations.

1.3 We are not able to exercise control over services we do not supply directly, therefore we will not be responsible for any loss or damage arising from:

- any booking made directly with a service Supplier by another travel agent; or
- any services which are not provided by us and which are additional to those described in this information pack.

#### **2. SUPPLY OF TRAVEL, ENTERTAINMENT, ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES**

2.1 When we make your bookings with the Suppliers of travel, entertainment and accommodation facilities or services, we are acting as a booking agent for the Suppliers.

2.2 All travel, entertainment and accommodation facilities or services are supplied directly to you by the Suppliers. We have no control over the facilities or services themselves, or the manner in which they are provided by the Suppliers. Therefore you should be aware of these conditions:

- We will not be liable for any loss or damage of any kind which may arise from your use of, consumption of, or inability to use or consume those facilities or services.
- The provision of those facilities or services is subject to the terms and conditions of your contract with each Supplier.
- Where, for any reason, a Supplier is unable to provide particular facilities or services, then that Supplier may be entitled, under its contract with you, to substitute those services or facilities with comparable or equivalent facilities, or services without incurring any liability to you. You should check your contract with each Supplier.
- All facilities or services described by us are subject to availability from the Supplier.
- We will not be liable or responsible for any loss or damage relating to your luggage, possessions, health or welfare, delays or travel disruptions unless these arise directly from the service we provide to you.

#### **3. BUSINESS PURPOSES**

You agree that where our services are acquired for business purposes, or where you hold yourself out for acquiring our services for business purposes, the Consumer Guarantee Act 1993 will not apply to any supply of goods or services made under these conditions and we will not be liable or responsible for any loss or damage of any kind to you, including any consequential loss or damage however it may be caused.

#### **4. PRICES**

4.1 Unless otherwise specified, all prices shown in this information pack are on a per person/twin share basis and are expressed in NZ dollars.

4.2 Events beyond our control, such as currency fluctuations, taxes, changes to the price of fuel or changes to the cost of services or facilities may result in the prices charged to you being different from those shown in this information pack. You should check all prices with Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers before making reservations and before making final payment

4.3 Prices may also be liable to variation between the time of booking and departure. We reserve the right to vary the price up until the time of your final payment being received by us due to exchange rates, group numbers and other events that may affect our initial quoted price.

4.4 Receipt of a deposit will be taken as an understanding by Midlife Madness Tours & Jacqui Williamson/The Travel Brokers that you have read and agree to abide by these terms and conditions.

#### **5. LEGAL CLAIMS**

Any claims or legal action in connection with the provision of our services to you will be governed by the laws of New Zealand. Any claim or legal action against the Suppliers is likely to be subject to the terms of your contract with them, and may be governed by the laws of other countries.



# TOUR BOOKING FORM

# Christmas ON THE Danube



ANOTHER MAD MIDLIFE ADVENTURE – 12 DREAMY DAYS – DEPARTING 10 DECEMBER, 2024



Please book my place on your Dec 2024 tour:  
**MIDLIFE MADNESS: CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....  
(please circle)

Age ..... Date of Birth ...../...../..... Nationality ..... (e.g. New Zealand, British)

Passport No ..... Expiry Date .....

Name you prefer to be called by .....

Address .....

Phone ..... hm / wk Mobile .....

Email address ..... Qatar Privilege Club No .....

Have you been on a **previous** Midlife Madness tour or cruise? (please circle) YES–NO

## HOTEL & CABIN ACCOMMODATION

Please arrange (tick one)  share twin (room/cabin with twin beds)  
 share double (room/cabin with double bed)  
 single (limited availability: please check first and request price)

I am (tick one)  travelling with ..... (name)  
 travelling alone

## AGE, HEALTH & FITNESS:

*Important: Please read the **ABOUT YOU** section – page 15 of this InfoPack. If you have any health or mobility issues, or you're 75 years old (or over), you and your doctor will need to complete a **Medical Certificate**. To request a copy, please email [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours) – or phone 0800 323 333.*

Do you have any health/fitness/mobility problems that we should be aware of?  
(If necessary, please explain on a separate page)

Is there any illness or disability for which you are on permanent medication?  
(If necessary, please explain on a separate page)

Do you require special inflight meals (e.g. gluten-free or vegetarian)?

**FAMILY CONTACTS IN NZ:** Name #1 .....

Relationship ..... Ph ..... Email .....

Name #2 .....

Relationship ..... Ph ..... Email .....

## HOW TO BOOK:

1. Complete ONE FORM PER PERSON.
2. Give the SAME NAME as in your Passport.
3. SCAN your Booking Form plus the Main Page from your Passport.
4. Then EMAIL both scanned forms to: [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours).
5. To PAY YOUR DEPOSIT ask for our secure online link & bank account details – phone 0800 323 333 or email [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours).
6. Then pay your deposit ONLINE – using direct credit or credit card.
7. For all enquiries phone toll-free:  
**0800 323 333**

## PLEASE SIGN & DATE:

Yes, I accept the Booking Conditions for this **2024 MIDLIFE MADNESS TOUR**, and will now pay my Deposit of

**\$4,000** per person

Please acknowledge my booking, and send me my receipt.

Signed .....

Date .....

## PAYMENT METHOD:

I'm paying ONLINE using (please tick one)

**DIRECT CREDIT** or

**CREDIT CARD**

*Note: Banks are no longer accepting cheques. Please email [info@midlifemadness.tours](mailto:info@midlifemadness.tours) or phone 0800 323 333 – and request our secure online link and bank account details.*

## INSURANCE: (please tick one)

I would like a quote for the **TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY** that Jacqui can arrange. Please provide details.

I'm arranging **MY OWN** insurance.

*Important: please send us a copy of your policy document (showing Insurance Co, details & emergency phone numbers).*



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